

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, the method comprising:

determining a first transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a first source, the first source identified by a first identifier;

determining a second transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a second source, the second source identified by a second identifier;

providing a preference to the selector, wherein the preference is based on the first and second transfer quality factors, the preference comprising at least one of the first and second identifiers; and

the selector selecting a source for the requestor based on the preference.

2. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

identifying the first and the second sources.

3. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

providing the first and the second identifiers to the requestor.

4. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the determining a first transfer quality factor includes performing a plurality of tests.

5. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 4, the method further comprising:

using a weighting function to weight the plurality of tests to determine the first transfer quality factor.

6. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 5, wherein the weighting function is defined by a user.

7. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the selected source is a transfer node, whereby the transfer node comprises a content object transferred from an originating source and made available to the requestor.

8. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:  
displaying the preference to a user.

9. A method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, the method comprising:  
identifying a first and a second source;  
analyzing transfer quality between the requestor and the first source, and between the requestor and the second source;  
ranking the first and the second sources based on the analyzed transfer qualities; and  
using the ranking to guide selection of the content object source, whereby the selected content object source is one of the first source, the second source, or a third source.

10. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein using the ranking comprises:  
transferring the ranking to a selector, the selector selecting the content object source partially based on the ranking, and the selector indicating the selected content object source to the requestor.

11. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing a plurality of tests.

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1 12. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content  
2 object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes  
3 performing at least one of traceroute, test via file transfer, server health check, server load  
4 check, ping, path difference, BGP routing information, or port response time.

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2 13. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content  
3 object source, according to claim 9, the method further comprising:  
4 requesting a content object from the selected content object source; and  
receiving the content object.

1 14. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content  
2 object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes  
3 pre-fetching a portion the content object.

1 15. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content  
2 object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes at  
3 least one of: decompressing the content object, decrypting the content object, or  
4 performing a security check of the content object.

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1 16. A method for supplying a content object from a content object  
2 source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a  
3 client preference, the method comprising:  
4 identifying a first and a second transfer node to the client;  
5 ranking the first and second transfer nodes by the client, the ranking  
6 forming a client preference;  
7 selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes based on the client  
8 preference; and  
9 requesting transfer of a content object from the selected transfer node.

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1 17. The method for supplying a content object from a content object  
2 source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a  
3 client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the client preference is created by  
4 analysis of a transfer quality between the client and the first transfer node and between  
5 the client and the second transfer node.

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